IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

Claims 1-14 (canceled).

15. (currently amended) Powder product for the protection of centrifugal casting molds used for the manufacture of cast iron pipes, comprising a mixture of:

at least one inoculating alloy;

at least one strongly reducing metal that is volatile at the temperature of liquid cast iron, the at least one strongly reducing metal being in the form of at least one non-ferrous alloy, and being present in an amount of 0.3 to 18% by weight of the product; and

optionally inert mineral powder.

16. (previously presented) Product according to claim 15, wherein the at least one inoculating alloy comprises a mixture of a plurality of inoculating alloys.

Claims 17-18 (canceled).

19. (previously presented) Powder product for the protection of centrifugal casting molds used for the manufacture of cast iron pipes, comprising a mixture of:

at least one inoculating alloy;

at least one strongly reducing metal that is volatile at the temperature of liquid cast iron; and

optionally inert mineral powder,

wherein the at least one strongly reducing metal comprises magnesium present in an amount of between 0.5 and 2% by weight of the powder product.

Claims 20-21 (canceled).

22. (previously presented) Product according to claim 15, wherein the at least one non-ferrous alloy contains less than 10% by weight of Fe.

23. (previously presented) Product according to claim 22, wherein the at least one non-ferrous alloy is an SiCa alloy containing, by weight:
Si 58 - 65%; Ca 27 - 35%; Fe 2 - 7%; Al 0.4 - 2%.

24. (previously presented) Product according to claim 23, containing between 15 and 40% by weight of said SiCa alloy.

Claim 25 (canceled).

26. (previously presented) Powder product for the protection of centrifugal casting molds used for the manufacture of cast iron pipes, comprising a mixture of:

at least one inoculating alloy;

at least one strongly reducing metal that is volatile at the temperature of liquid cast iron; and

between 0.2 and 15% by weight of an inert mineral powder.

27. (previously presented) Product according to claim 26, wherein the inert mineral powder is selected from the group consisting of calcium fluoride, magnesium fluoride and mixtures thereof.

28. (previously presented) Process for manufacturing a powder product for the protection of centrifugal casting molds used for the manufacture of cast iron pipes, comprising at least one inoculating alloy, at least one strongly reducing metal that is volatile at the temperature of liquid cast iron and inert mineral powder, comprising forming a powder premix of the at least one strongly reducing metal and the inert mineral powder, and mixing the powder premix with the at least one inoculating alloy in powder form,

wherein the at least one strongly reducing metal constitutes 15 to 60% by weight of the premix.

Claim 29 (canceled).

30. (currently amended) In a process for molding cast iron comprising bringing molten cast iron into contact with an

inside surface of a centrifugal casting mold,

the improvement comprising protecting the mold by applying to the inside surface a powder product comprising at least one inoculating alloy and at least one strongly reducing metal that is volatile at the temperature of the molten cast iron, before bringing the molten cast iron into contact with the inside surface of the mold, the at least one strongly reducing metal being present in an amount of 0.3 to 18% by weight of the product.

31. (previously presented) Process according to claim 30, wherein the at least one inoculating alloy comprises a mixture of a plurality of inoculating alloys.

32. (previously presented) Process according to claim 30, wherein the at least one strongly reducing metal is an element in column II of the periodic table of elements.

33. (previously presented) Process according to claim 32, wherein the at least one strongly reducing metal is an element in subgroup IIa of the periodic table of elements.

34. (previously presented) Process according to claim 33, wherein the at least one strongly reducing metal is magnesium or calcium.

Claims 35-39 (canceled).

40. (previously presented) Process according to claim 34, wherein the product contains between 0.5 and 2% by weight of magnesium.

41. (previously presented) Process according to claim 30, wherein the product additionally comprises between 0.2 and 15% by weight of an inert mineral powder.

42. (previously presented) Process according to claim 41, wherein the inert mineral powder is selected from the group consisting of calcium fluoride, magnesium fluoride and mixtures thereof.

43. (new) In a process for molding cast iron comprising bringing molten cast iron into contact with an inside surface of a centrifugal casting mold,

the improvement comprising protecting the mold by applying to the inside surface a powder product comprising at least one inoculating alloy and at least one strongly reducing metal that is volatile at the temperature of the molten cast iron, before bringing the molten cast iron into contact with the inside surface of the mold,

the at least one strongly reducing metal being added in the form of at least one non-ferrous alloy which is an SiCa alloy containing, by weight:

Si 58 - 65%; Ca 27 - 35%; Fe 2 - 7%; Al 0.4 - 2%.

44. (new) Process according to claim 44, wherein the product contains between 15 and 40% by weight of said SiCa alloy.

45. (new) Powder product for the protection of centrifugal casting molds used for the manufacture of cast iron pipes, comprising a mixture of:

at least one inoculating alloy;

at least one strongly reducing metal that is volatile at the temperature of liquid cast iron, the at least one strongly reducing metal being in the form of at least one non-ferrous alloy; and

optionally inert mineral powder,

wherein the at least one non-ferrous alloy is an SiCa alloy containing, by weight:

Si 58 - 65%; Ca 27 - 35%; Fe 2 - 7%; Al 0.4 - 2%.

46. (new) Product according to claim 45, containing between 15 and 40% by weight of said SiCa alloy.